GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:514
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
REPORT ON CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION ON ANIMALS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have submitted a report on the proposed steps for proper protection and conservation of the animals in National Zoological Parks within stipulated time as directed by the Supreme Court in the month of January, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said report is likely to be submitted?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.514 REGARDI
REPORT ON CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.4.2001

(a),(b),(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. An affidavit has been filed in the Supreme Court on 19-1-2001 by the Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority. The affidavit placed before the court details the outcome of the meeting of Forest Secretaries of different States / UTs which was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment & Forests) Government of India on 27-11-2000 to discuss the situation arising out of the deaths of tigers in zoos in the country. Member Secretary, along with his affidavit has also filed the minutes of the meeting taken by the Secretary, (Environment & Forests) to apprise the court of the various measures for improvement of zoos on which there was a consensus amongst the participants. These decisions are summarised below :

1. No new zoo should be established in the public sector for the time being. Situation could be reviewed after 4-5 years.

2. The veterinary officers should be inducted in the field of zoo management at a younger stage and allowed to continue as long as they wish. In-situ promotions may also be considered.

3. The need for fixing minimum qualifications for zookeepers should be examined with a view to get improved inputs from them about the behaviour and status of health of the animals.

4. State governments should allow the zoos to utilize financial assistance released by the Central Zoo Authority on 100% funding pattern directly without going through the state budgetary process.

5. The zoos should have a definite exchange programme of animals in the interest of conservation. No price should be charged by the donor zoo from other zoos in the public sector

6. Central Zoo Authority should be more proactive regarding enforcement of exchange programme of animals amongst the zoos in the interest of wildlife conservation.

7 The state governments should create appropriate infrastructure for improved upkeep and health-care of zoo animals. Whenever, Central Government stipulate creation of additional post, it should be willing to provide 100% funding for the same.